[30th December 1953

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" The Hon. Minister stated in his reply that there was only one Woman Medical Officer for the whole Sanatorium. May I know whether the Government have considered the desirability of posting adequate number of Women officers? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" A Senior Woman Assistant Surgeon was posted on the 25th July this year. There is a proposal to appoint another Woman Medical Officer."

SRI G. KRISHNAMURTHI :—" Is it a fact that the incidence of tuberculosis is more in the case of ladies than in the case of men? If so, will the Government kindly make it their policy to provide more wards for ladies? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Less number of women patients are seeking admission, Sir." (Laughter.)

Reservation of seats for students of Scheduled and Backward classes in the Arts and Professional Colleges.

* 26 *Q.*—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance and Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there are any rules for the reservation of seats for Scheduled classes and Backward communities in regard to admissions to all State-aided Arts and Professional Colleges; and

(*b*) if so, whether these rules are being strictly followed?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) & (*b*) No specific percentage has been fixed for reservation of seats for the Scheduled castes, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes in the private colleges and the Universities in receipt of aid from the Government but the managements of aided Colleges and the Universities have been requested to extend their fullest co-operation in the matter of encouraging the higher education of the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the other Backward Classes. Most of the managements are co-operating with the Government."

SRI A. GAJAPATHY NAYAGAR :—" Will the Hon. Minister furnish figures regarding the number of students of Backward Communities who have been admitted into these Professional Colleges? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I have got the figures. If the hon. Member is interested, he may put a separate question or if he asks for information, I will supply him."

Child Beggars in the City.

* 27 *Q.*—DR. S. MUTHULAKSHMI REDDI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance and Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that a large number of child beggars are found in thoroughfares and in places of heavy traffic in the City of Madras;

30th December 1953]

(*b*) whether the Government have issued any instructions to the police to take them into the custody of the Madras Children Aid Society; and

(*c*) whether the Government are contemplating on any comprehensive legislation to put down public begging by the able-bodied, diseased and disabled beggars and to provide work houses for the able-bodied and hospitals and infirmaries for the disabled and the diseased beggars, respectively?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

" (*b*) Children under 14 years of age found begging in public places are rounded up by the Police and dealt with under the provisions of the Madras City Police Act and the Madras Children Act, i.e., they are taken to the Reception Homes (which were hitherto under the management of the Madras Children Aid Society and which have since been brought under Government management) and detained there, till their cases are disposed of by the Juvenile Courts. Apart from this provision, no special instructions have been issued by the Government to the Police in the matter.

" (*c*) The answer is in the negative.

" The existing provision in the City Police Act dealing with beggar problem is adequate and no new legislation on the subject is contemplated. The Government have under consideration a proposal to open a Special Home and a Work House for beggars in or near Madras City, in addition to the 'Work House' and 'Special Home' already established under the management of the Corporation of Madras."

DR. S. MUTHULAKSHMI REDDI :—" It is stated in the answer that children under 14 years of age are rounded up by the Police and admitted in the Reception Homes. Some of us have noticed that even children under the age of 5 are allowed to beg in public places and in places of heavy traffic. I have seen this myself and I hope hon. Members would have noticed this. Even nursing babies are allowed to beg. May I know from the Hon. Minister whether strict instructions will be issued to the Police to carry out the provisions of the Madras Children Act, as we find that these provisions are not now strictly enforced? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" The Government are aware that some of these young children are being utilised by elders for the purpose of begging and we are trying to tackle that problem."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" Is the Hon. Minister aware that according to a survey conducted in the City on the 8th of November by the Madras School of Social Work, 1,888 children below the age of 12 were found begging in the streets of the Madras City? Now, if there is adequate provision as mentioned by the Hon. Minister, how does it come to pass that so many thousands of children are still begging in the streets? ".

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, the City is a large one. It is rather difficult to tackle every beggar going about. As a matter of fact, these children show a disinclination to go to the Special Homes. That is why we find that these boys and children are begging even now."

11-20 a.m. SRI V. CHAKKARAI CHETTY :—" Are these children born of parents living in Madras or do they migrate from surrounding districts on account of the prevalence of famine conditions there? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" The impression of the Government is that these children do not belong to the City but come from outside. They are attracted by the upper and the middle classes, who are available for being asked to give charity, being concentrated in Madras."

SRIMATHI MARY C. CLUBWALA JADHAV :—" Is the Hon. the Chief Minister aware that though these children come to the juvenile courts, for want of accommodation we just give them a reprimand and send them back to the poor homes in their districts if there are any and in other cases, we simply give them a scolding and send them back, and they repeat this over and over again and that some facilities should be provided for these children, Sir? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" We are thinking of providing more space and of expanding the scope for putting these unfortunate people in care homes."

SRI G. KRISHNAMURTHI :—" Is the large influx of children into the City due to the non-existence of proper beggar homes in the districts and, if so, will the Government force every local body, especially municipal councils, to open beggar homes at least in the district headquarters? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" We can do that along with a cheque to make up for their deficit."

DR. C. NATHAMUNI NAIDU :—" Is it a fact that the children beg because they get a fairly large income from begging? "

DR. S. MUTHULAKSHMI REDDI :—" I was an Honorary Secretary of the Madras Children's Aid Society for a period of ten years when the Society was being organized and may I say that if the children are properly sheltered, protected and trained for earning some livelihood, they will never resort to begging at all? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" If the children are looked after as they are looked after in the Avvai Home, they will not resort to begging. But it costs a great deal."

SRI MOHAMMAD RAZA KHAN :—As the Hon. the Chief Minister said that most of these children came from the mufassal will the Government think of levying some tax on the mufassal people so that those coming from the mufassal may be provided with proper beggar homes in the City of Madras? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" That most of the people who earn a livelihood and have occupations are living in Madras and are inclined to continue to live in Madras is the reason for attracting these people who depend upon charity from them. That is a natural law. As a matter of fact, the Government are taxing the mufassal people in all matters."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" Do the Government realise that begging is only a symptom, the root evil being poverty, and will they take active action for eradicating poverty?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" The thesis of the hon. Member is accepted. But that is only a partial one. We must add to it this, viz., that the resources of the Government depend upon the prosperity of the people."

SRI K. BALASUBRAMANYA AYYAR :—" May I know whether begging is not a habit?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" All things become a habit."

DR. C. NATHAMUNI NAIDU :—" May I know whether begging has not been in vogue ever since the world came into existence?"

SRI M. P. GOVINDA MENON :—" There is a large increase in the number of child-beggars in the mufassal also and how will the Government explain it? Is it due to migration from the City?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" There is an increase everywhere—in the small towns, in the big towns and in the Cities also. Comparatively the City of Madras has a very much larger number and people coming from very great distances are found here."

Principles regarding re-employment of retired officers.

* 28 Q.—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance and Education be pleased to state—

(a) the general principles followed in the re-employment of retired officers of Government; and

(b) whether the availability of qualified men in service is taken into consideration before ordering such re-employment of retired officers?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (a) The general policy of the Government is not to re-employ retired Government servants. In view, however, of the paucity of persons with the requisite technical knowledge and experience in